

PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO.: 200315309-1

REMARKS

Entry of the proposed amendments is respectfully requested.

By way of the proposed amendment, claims 1, 4, 8, 16, 19, 20, 30 and 35 are presented for examination, of which claims 1 and 16 are in independent form.

Base claims 1 and 16 are proposed to be amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 32 and 27 respectively, which has been identified to be allowable in the pending Office Action. Additionally, claims 26-29 and 31-34 are cancelled without prejudice, limitation, waiver or estoppel.

No new matter is added thereby.

Favorable reconsideration of the present patent application as currently constituted is respectfully requested.

Regarding the Allowable Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 27 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claims 27 and 32 into their respective base claims. All pending claims are now believed to be allowable.

PATENT APPLICATION
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Regarding the Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 8, 16, 19, 20, 26, 28, 31 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,839,188 to Pommer (hereinafter the *Pommer* reference).

As noted above, the subject matter of claims 32 and 27, which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, has been incorporated into respective base claims 1 and 16. Accordingly, base claims 1 and 16 are believed to be allowable. Claims 26, 28, 31 and 33 have been canceled. Claims 4 and 8 depend from base claim 1 and claims 19 and 20 depend from base claim 16; each of these dependent claims introduces additional features therein. Accordingly, dependent claims 4, 8, 19 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance over the art of record.

Regarding the Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 29-30 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by *Pommer* in view of U.S. Patent 6,344,371 to Fischer et al.

Claims 29 and 34 have been canceled. Claim 30 depends from base claim 16 and claim 35 depends from base claim 1. Accordingly, dependent claims 30 and 35 are believed to be in condition for allowance over the art of record.

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of the record, whether considered alone or in combination discloses, anticipates or suggests the pending claims, and in further view of the above remarks and/or amendments, reconsideration of the Action and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

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Respectfully submitted,



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